

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00690 031035Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2233
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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NAPLES FOR USIS/ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IT
SUBJECT: PALERMO PCI DAILY REPORTED READY TO FOLD

1. PERENNIALY REPORTED TO BE MORIBUND, PALERMO'S PCI-OWNED DAILY "L'ORA" IS AGAIN EXPECTED TO SUCCUMB - THIS TIME TO GROWING PRODUCTION COSTS IN AN INEFFICIENT PLANT AND TO AN ABRUPT DECLINE IN CIRCULATION: FROM A PEAK 25/30,000 TO 7/10,000, ISLAND-WIDE. AN ADDITIONAL, UNSTATED FACTOR HAS BEEN THE DIFFICULT TASK (SO FAR, UNSUCCESSFUL) OF FINDING A CREDIBLE ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE PAPER'S CURRENT EDITORIAL TREATMENT OF DC-PCI RELATIONS AND ITS PREVIOUS GADFLY ROLE AS SICILY'S PRIMARY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND GOVERNMENT-BAITER.

2. WITH THE PAPER ON THE THRESHOLD OF GOING UNDER, SEVERAL KEY STAFFERS, INCLUDING MANAGING EDITOR ETRIO FIDORA, HAVE FORMED A COOPERATIVE TO ASSUME ITS MANAGEMENT UNTIL THE END OF 1977. L'ORA'S FORMER DIRECTOR, VITTORIO NISTICO', PRESENTLY ON THE STAFF OF ROME'S PAESE SERA, HAS ACCEPTED THE "PRESIDENCY" OF THE COOPERATIVE BUT IT

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IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL RESUME RESIDENCY IN PALERMO. WITH THEIR INITIATIVE BLESSED BY THE PCI, THE NEW COOPERATIVE HAS ALSO BEEN PROMISED FULL USE OF THE FORMER COMPANY'S PUBLISHING FACILITIES. SENSING LOSS OF THEIR JOBS, HOWEVER, THE L'ORA PRINTING STAFF WENT ON STRIKE, SEPTEMBER 23 (REPORTEDLY THE FIRST IN THE NEWSPAPER'S HISTORY) ALLEGING THAT THE COOPERATIVE WAS "DOOMED FROM THE OUTSET".

3. THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW COOPERATIVE VENTURE REMAINS TO BE SEEN AND L'ORA HAS FREQUENTLY SURVIVED PAST RUMORS OF ITS IMMINENT DEMISE. THE OBJECTIVE DIFFICULTIES ARE THERE, HOWEVER, AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THE PCI WILL BE FORCED TO FIRE EMPLOYEES AND TO ACT, AS ONE OF THE STRIKING PRINTERS SUGGESTED, LIKE THE "SELFISH, EXPLOITING CAPITALISTS" THAT THE NEWSPAPER HAS SO OFTEN PLAYED IN THE PAST.
COLLINS

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Message Attributes

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